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This result would have been as nearly in accord with the popular vote for President as any possible of attainment.

It is confidently believed that the adoption of the single-vote method of electing Representatives in Congress would prove an effectual check to bribery and intimidation of voters. When any political party perceived that it could not, by any possible instrumentality, poll more than a certain number of Representative ratios, the motive for corrupting or browbeating voters would no longer exist. Hence the single vote would not only give the people equal representation in Congress, but go far toward the assurance of free and pure elections.

BENJAMIN F. MEYERS.

IV.

ANTI-POVERTY RECIPES.

ABOUT five hundred miles southwest of Nanking the Yangtsekiang River is joined by a tributary that drains the lowland province of Kiangtze, and the lower ten thousand square miles of the alluvial delta form probably the most densely-populated region of the modern world. Every square rod of tillable ground is cultivated on the most approved truck-farm plan; the very rocks of the upland hills are utilized by grape-gardeners; and cattle-pastures have long ago made room for fish-ponds. Professor Kersten, of Vienna, demonstrates that by systematic pisciculture animal food can be produced eight times as cheaply as by any method of stock-raising; but that estimate refers only to the conventional systems of southern Europe, whereas, by adopting the Chinese expedients for providing vegetable fish-food, ponds, acre for acre, could be made about fifteen times more profitable than the best pastures.

Chemistry, too, has devised various methods for cheapening the ingredients of our food by artificial equivalents, but the most effective remedy against the chief peril of over-population is, after all, the Corsican plan of *substituting perennial for annual food-plants.* Sugar, flour, and fat form the most important elements of our diet, and even in the colder latitudes of the temperate zone those elements could be derived from the products of arboreal vegetation. Beechnuts yield an oil almost equal to olive oil; walnuts and hazlenuts can be used for the same purpose, and by careful cultivation could be made productive enough to supply all the calorific elements of food needed even by a northland population. In the Mediterranean coastlands olive-trees begin to bear about the seventh year, but far outlive their planters; so much so, indeed, that some Sicilian specimens of the *Olea Europea* are believed to be older than the period of our chronological era. After the twentieth year olive-trees planted in a congenial soil become enormously productive. At least five of the twenty-odd different varieties could be successfully cultivated as far north as Tennessee, and the California plantations alone will soon supply all the markets of North America. Italy, in spite of her discouraging tax on all orchard trees, still produces nearly 40,000,000 gallons a year. Besides the olive, the forests of the lower latitudes produce hundreds of different oil-yielding trees. Of palms alone Professor Burmeister enumerates thirty-five species, some of them productive enough to make animal fats almost superfluous.

Sugar, also, could be derived from tree products in an abundance that would make the manufacture of glucose cease to form a profitable branch of industry. Maple syrup can be refined in a way to modify the acid taste of its sugar; palm trees and several species of conifers yield a honey-like sap; more than fifty different kinds of orchard fruits abound in saccharine elements; and a small, roundish variety of the Grecian sugar-plum yields 30 per cent. more sugar per gallon of juice than the best sugar-cane.

In the production of farinaceous food-stuffs our grain-planters would find it equally impossible to compete with the cultivators of various species of arboreal plants. According to Humboldt and Bonpland's estimate, an area of land producing a hundred pounds of potatoes will yield more than four thousand pounds of bananas, and a banana orchard of three acres can be made to support twenty-five men. All through southern Europe and southwestern Asia cereals are largely superseded by the *castanea vesca*, or Italian chestnut, bearing a nut somewhat larger than a filbert and more nutritious than any known variety of farinaceous grain. In Italy chestnuts are eaten boiled and roasted, or ground into meal, like wheat, and on the island of Corsica nine out of ten farmers derive their breadstuff almost exclusively from that kind of tree-flour—"*farina*," as they call it, in distinction from any other sort of meal.

On three acres of ground an orchard of full-grown chestnut-trees will produce, year after year, a quantum of *farina* sufficient for the need of a moderate-sized family, and chestnut-trees will flourish among rocks where even an Alleghany Mountain squatter would hesitate to run a plow. And while the plowing and sowing of a wheatfield have to be repeated every year, nut trees take care of themselves, as well as of their proprietors. Grain crops, in the course of a few years, exhaust or impoverish the best soil, unless the loss is made up by the use of fertilizers. Trees not only dispense with such assistance, but improve with old age. An old chestnut-tree near Aci Reale, on the slope of Mount Etna, is 160 feet in circumference, but still yields an abundant crop of nuts, though up to a height of thirty feet above ground the trunk forms a mere hollow shell. A similar tree near Sancerre, twenty miles east of Bourges, France, is believed to be a thousand years old, and one at Tortworth, in Gloucestershire, England, has formed a boundary mark ever since the time of King John.

The hard work of an orchard farmer would be limited to a few harvest weeks, and, aside from all that, the substitution of trees for annuals would solve a problem of ages by preventing the disastrous climatic changes incident to the destruction of arboreal vegetation. Drought would become less frequent and spring floods less ruinous; "arbor days" could be celebrated on every homestead, and, besides saving the endless drudgery of a grain farm, tree plantations would reward their protectors with the shade of their foliage in summer and with windfalls of dry twigs in cold weather, and shelter the nests of myriads of insect-eating birds.

FELIX L. OSWALD.